

**Discussion on the
PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEES
of
The Montana Public Defender Commission**
Revised July, 2008

Budget Committee

This committee receives briefings from staff about major budget and accounting issues, including budget requests from the agency and others for the executive planning process and hears public testimony about these requests. The committee makes recommendations to the full Commission on the adoption of budget items. The committee also hears updates from staff on current year budget to actual activity and accounting and audit issues. Members may be asked to participate in budget discussions with the Office of Budget and Program Planning and the Legislature.

Information Technology Committee

This committee receives briefings from staff about major information technology issues. The committee advises and updates the full Commission on new technology, and plans to focus on technology that can be used for training purposes. The committee hears public testimony.

Personnel Committee

The only past activity of this committee was to be involved in the hiring process for the Chief Public Defender.

Legislative Committee

This committee receives briefings from staff about major legislative issues and is involved in the production of new legislation or changes to existing legislation that affects the agency. The committee will communicate with the Budget committee and may be involved in the legislative session and with strategizing with the Governor's office regarding agency bills. The committee hears public testimony on any legislative matter.

Contracts Process Committee

This committee receives briefings from staff about major contractor-related issues, including current rates for services and information related to possible adjustments to these rates and about other contractor issues. The committee also considers requests from contractors for reconsideration of claims or preapprovals for services that have been denied because they are considered by agency personnel to be outside of the scope of the agency's legislative authority for payment or approval.

Collective Bargaining Committee

This committee receives briefings from staff about major collective bargaining issues and hears public testimony. Members of the Committee may also be involved in labor negotiations.

Grants Committee

This committee receives briefings from staff about grant opportunities or filings and hears public testimony. This committee also offers suggestions about where to obtain grants.

Caseload Standards Committee

This committee receives briefings from staff about major caseload standard issues and hears public testimony.

MONTANA STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION

COMMITTEES

AS OF MARCH 26, 2009

(x denotes chair)

Budget Committee

Steve Nardi
Jennifer Hensley (x)
Mike Sherwood
Caroline Fleming
Vic Miller

Collective Bargaining Committee

Vic Miller (x)
Majel Russell

Grants Committee

Tara Veazey (x)
Caroline Fleming
Jim Taylor
Bill Snell
Majel Russell

Legislative Committee

Tara Veazey (x)
Jennifer Hensley
Mike Sherwood
Fritz Gillespie

Personnel Committee

Caroline Fleming
Steve Nardi
Vic Miller (x)

Contracts Process and Approvals Committee

Mike Sherwood (x)
Jim Taylor
Jennifer Hensley

Standards Committee

Steve Nardi (x)
Fritz Gillespie
Ken Olson

IT Committee

Jim Taylor
Bill Snell